Rise in Price of Natural Rubber

5755. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of natural rubber have reached an all time high of Rs. 57|- per kg. as against the stipulated Government benchmark price of Rs. 24.90|- per kg;

(b) whether the high price of natural rubber has added to the burden of Rs. 1600 crore to the tyre industry of the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons of such a hike in price and steps taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Rubber price on the 13th May touched Rs. 60.00 per kg. as against the benchmark kprice of Rs. 24.90 fixed on 22nd February, 1994 which has increased the raw material costs of the tyre industry.

(c) Excess of demand over supply, inadequate inflows of natural rubber into the domestic market and fall in import of rubber by the tyre industry against advance licence contributed to the price rise. Keeping in view the existing gap oetween demand and supply, the Govt. has allowed import of about 32,000 MTs of natural rubber to the actual users/manufacturers at nil duty. This is likely to improve the domestic supply and price situation.

Sale of Tea Gardens under TTCI

6756. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tea garden under the Tea Trading Corporation of India has been sold to private parties;

(b) what amount was paid for these tea gardens; and

(c) what conditionalities were accepted regarding the liabilities and condition of the workers and employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. However, necessary steps are being taken for disposal of all the five gardens vested in the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. through outright sale by inviting competitive bids.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Before transfer of the Tea Estates all the liabilities pertaining to these tea estates will be taken over by TTCI Ltd. The terms of the proposed sale inter-alia provides that all the employees and workers who are on the rolls of the respective estates shall be taken over by the respective purchasers with continuity of service and shall continue to be employed for a minimum period of two years from the date of purchase.

हरियाणा से निर्यात की जाने वाली मदें

6757. **श्री रामजी लाल :** क्या **वाणिज्य मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा हरियाणा राज्य से प्रति वर्ष किन-किन मदों का निर्यात किया जाता है ;

(ख) निर्यात में इस वर्ष कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है और वर्ष 1995–96 के दौरान इस राज्य के संदर्भ में और किन-किन मदों को निर्यात-सूची में शामिल किया जायेगा ;

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान विभिन्न राज्यों की तुलना में हरियाणा राज्य से कितनी मात्रा में निर्यात किया गया ;

(घ) क्या सरकार अंगूर, जो कि जल्दी खराब हो जाने वाली मद है, का भी निर्यात करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?